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Honest Criticism vs. Slanders and Libels

"It is not only natural, but inevitable," says the President, "that a work as gigantic as this which has been undertaken on the isthmus should arouse every species of hostility and criticism. The conditions are so new and so trying, and the work so vast, that it would be absolutely out of the question that mistakes should not be made. Checks will occur. Unforeseen difficulties will arise. From time to time seemingly well-settled plans will have to be changed. At present 25,000 men are engaged on the task. After a while the number will be doubled. In such a multitude it is inevitable that there should be here and there a scoundrel."

DOUBTING THOMASES TO BE EXPECTED.

"Very many of the poorer classes of laborers lack the mental development to protect themselves against either the rascality of others or their own folly, and it is not possible for human wisdom to devise a plan by which they can invariably be protected. In a place which has been for ages a byword for unhealthfulness, and with so large a congregation of strangers suddenly put down and set to hard work, there will now and then be outbreaks of disease. There will now and then be shortcomings in administration; there will be unlooked-for accidents to delay the excavation of the cut or the building of the dam and locks. Each such incident will be entirely natural, and even though serious, no one of them will mean more than a little extra delay or trouble."

"Yet each, when discovered by sensation mongers and retailed to timid folk of little faith, will serve as an excuse for the belief that this whole work is being badly managed. Experiments are continually being tried in housing, in hygiene, in street repaving, in dredging, and in digging earth and rock. Now and then an experiment will be a failure; and among those who hear of it, a certain proportion of doubting Thomases will at once believe that the whole work is a failure."

Honest and Clear of Politics.

"Doubtless here and there some minor rascality will be uncovered; but as to this, I have to say that after the most painstaking inquiry I have been unable to find a single reputable person who had so much as heard of any serious accusations affecting the honesty of the commission or any responsible officer under it."

"I append a letter dealing with the most serious charge, that of the ownership of lots in Colon; the charge was

not advanced by a reputable man, and is a reckless slander as has ever been published. Where the slanders are of foreign origin I have no concern with them. Where they are American, I feel for them the heartiest contempt and indignation; because, in a spirit of wanton dishonesty and malice, they are trying to interfere with, and hamper the execution of, the greatest work of the kind ever attempted, and are seeking to bring to naught the efforts of their countrymen to constitute a gross libel upon a body of public servants who, for trained intelligence, expert ability, high character and devotion to duty, have never been excelled anywhere. There is not a man among those directing the work on the isthmus who has obtained his position by any means other than merit alone, and not one who has used his position in any way for his own personal or pecuniary advantage."

"Reckless Slander."

"So much for honest criticism. There remains an immense amount of as reckless slander as has ever been published. Where the slanders are of foreign origin I have no concern with them. Where they are American, I feel for them the heartiest contempt and indignation; because, in a spirit of wanton dishonesty and malice, they are trying to interfere with, and hamper the execution of, the greatest work of the kind ever attempted, and are seeking to bring to naught the efforts of their countrymen to constitute a gross libel upon a body of public servants who, for trained intelligence, expert ability, high character and devotion to duty, have never been excelled anywhere. There is not a man among those directing the work on the isthmus who has obtained his position by any means other than merit alone, and not one who has used his position in any way for his own personal or pecuniary advantage."

MOODY GOES ON BENCH AS CHANGES ARE MADE IN PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Advisers of Roosevelt Assume Their New Duties.

SECRETARY STRAUS IS ONLY NEW FACE

New Yorker Takes Office From Metcalf, Who Succeeds Bonaparte, Now Attorney General.

The first move on the Presidential Cabinet board was made at 2:30 o'clock this morning when Secretary Metcalf, of the Department of Commerce and Labor formally turned the Department over to his successor, Oscar S. Straus, of New York, the new man that will appear at the Cabinet meeting tomorrow. In the Secretary's office were gathered the heads of bureaus and division chiefs. They formed a line and with the retiring Secretary the new head of the Department was introduced to each official of the department. With the introductions over, Mr. Metcalf congratulated his successor and paid a deserved tribute to his fellow-workers. The oath was then administered to Secretary Straus by Chief Clerk Larned of the Bureau of Immigration.

Straus in New Role.

Secretary Straus said he would have to learn all about his department and would depend largely upon the chiefs of divisions and their employees to assist him in carrying on the work that had been so successfully done by his predecessor. He announced the appointment of Theodore L. Weed as his private secretary. Mr. Weed has been assistant to the chief clerk of the department.

After the formal ceremonies in the Department of Commerce and Labor, the heads of the bureaus and chiefs of divisions went to the Navy Department to witness the succession of Secretary Metcalf to Secretary Bonaparte, who, a few minutes later, filled the gap in the Cabinet caused by Attorney General Moody's resignation. Secretary Bonaparte, in a most felicitous manner, congratulated Secretary Metcalf upon the compliment implied in "your choice for the office you now assume."

Metcalf Is Satisfied.

After a compliment to the gentlemen who will assist in the work of the department the oath was administered. The new Secretary made a happy reply, saying that he had always taken a deep interest in the Navy, and that if he could only accomplish what Secretary Bonaparte had accomplished he would be entirely satisfied. He knew the Department of Justice would have at its head a very able man. This was followed by exchange of greetings between the new Secretary and the leading officials of the department.

With Private Secretary Gans, Secretary Bonaparte was driven to the Department of Justice, where their coming was waited by Attorney General Moody. All the assistant attorney generals and their assistants and head law clerks were there to meet the new Attorney General. The formalities were brief. The oath of office was administered by Appointment Clerk Sornberger, Mr.

The Cabinet Today.
Secretary of State—Elihu Root of New York.
Secretary of the Treasury—Leslie M. Shaw of Iowa.
Secretary of War—William H. Taft of Ohio.
Attorney General—Charles J. Bonaparte of Maryland.
Postmaster General—George B. Cortelyou of New York.
Secretary of the Navy—Victor H. Metcalf of California.
Secretary of Interior—Ethan Allen Hitchcock of Missouri.
Secretary of Agriculture—James Wilson of Iowa.
Secretary of Commerce and Labor—Oscar S. Straus of New York.

Moody said: "I congratulate you, Mr. Bonaparte, and I hope for you a successful administration, and in wishing you that I take the liberty of saying that I believe you will have it." Mr. Moody then added a tribute to the men who have served with him since he became Attorney General.

"Mr. Moody assumed the judicial robe at 11:45 o'clock."

DR. KOCH CURES AFRICA'S DEADLY SLEEP SICKNESS

BERLIN, Dec. 17.—Announcement is made that Prof. Robert Koch, after years of research in Africa, has discovered a cure for the sleeping sickness, the great scourge of the "Dark Continent."

Prof. Koch is practicing his cure in the wilds of German East Africa, and thousands of afflicted negroes have rushed from all parts of the country to his camp. His headquarters are at Lake Nyanza. Two million Africans are said to die annually from the sleeping sickness.

Prof. Koch was awarded the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1905. He has spent years in research.

PEOPLE'S BANK ASKS CREDITORS TO CALL

While over two thousand depositors of the People's Bank have been paid in full, there are still several hundred creditors who have failed to call on Receiver J. W. Schofield to receive their checks payable at the Union Savings Bank.

The office of the receiver will be open every day this week for the payment of deposits. After Saturday night all claims will have to be made through the Treasury Department, entailing much inconvenience for both the bank's creditors and the officials.

IT WON'T.

If the Standard Oil Company is convicted and fined the limit on every count upon which it has been indicted, its capitalization will be wiped out. But, it won't.—Chicago Journal.

IDEAS OF THE PRESIDENT

Complete plan of Burnham Commission for great mall. Let public buildings, classic in style and modern in equipment, line its sides. Expend \$30,000,000 on the project.

Model City of World Ambition of President, Dream of Predecessors

Representatives to Get Facts for Roosevelt to Put Before Congress as to Conditions.

Ideal Mall One Feature of the Scheme to Make Washington More Beautiful.

Much Attention to Be Given to Sanitary Conditions as Result of Work of J. B. Reynolds.

President Roosevelt is ambitious that his administration shall be marked by the inauguration of new administrative policies in the city of Washington which will result in the realization of the dreams of L'Enfant and General Washington, that here should one day stand the world's model city and most beautiful capital.

Quietly and without attracting much attention, various agencies have been for many months getting together facts and figures concerning conditions in this city. Much of the matter thus collected is now in the hands of the President. Still more is in process of preparation.

The general scheme which the President has in mind he will lay before Congress, it is said, bolstering his recommendations with the most ample and specific information as to present conditions, and with urgent recommendation as to what they ought to be.

At a recent White House function the President is said to have indicated to his guests in a general way his ideas about the work needed for betterment of the Capital. One part of his general scheme, as heretofore stated in The Times, is the carrying to completion of the Burnham Commission's plan for the great ideal Mall. Public buildings, classic in style, modern in equipment, complete in adaptation to Government needs, and as perfect as possible in all sanitary features, are to line this immense park.

It is said that about \$30,000,000 is the estimated cost of completing the scheme for consolidating and rounding out the really holdings necessary to make the ideal mall which the Burnham Commission had in mind. He believes the Government should carry out the plan despite the expense, and that it will never cost less than now.

Along with this, the President's advisers

are in mind plans for improving and unifying architectural styles in the business district, so that the whole lower city may be developed artistically and in keeping with the character given by the carrying out of the Mall project.

But the Mall and the city's artistic development are hardly more than incidents in the great plan that is being worked out. The physically perfect city must also be as nearly perfect in a sanitary way as development of sanitary science will permit.

Public Health and Marine Hospital officials are conducting a thorough investigation of the water supply of the city to determine its proportion of responsibility for disease. The bureau of the Agricultural Department is making an equally rigid inquiry into the source and character of the milk supply of the city, which has been suspected of a large responsibility for bad health conditions.

Milk Supply Bad.

This statement is made with especial reference to the milk supply of the city. Secretary Wilson has unqualifiedly stated the worst of any city in the country. The city inspection department is blamed for ineffective work, though the system rather than its head is chiefly criticized.

The general sanitary conditions of the city have been investigated during a period of several months by James B. Reynolds, of New York. He was accredited to every department head, and in making his personal representative of the President, entitled to go where and when he pleased. He was to ask any questions, conduct experiments and investigations, and in short learn everything he might desire about working conditions in the Government establishments.

Tenement Conditions.

With his sweeping authority, Mr. Reynolds was able to secure official co-operation in his inquiry into housing conditions in the city. His report on this subject is declared startling. He found large elements of the foreign-born and colored population living in conditions of squalor and misery that he believes could hardly be duplicated in the country. To these conditions of life Mr. Reynolds attributes a responsibility for the prevalence and fatality of much of the disease which has so long afflicted the authorities, pointing out that people living in these conditions not only endanger their own health, but are in less measure a menace to the rest of the population.

Relentless war on slums is Mr. Reynolds' remedy through the enforcement of regulations under which people will be given decent, safe, sanitary houses in which to live. It is said that Mr. Reynolds will have the city council go into the municipal housing business, and do what the London council has done in the English metropolis, and what municipal bodies have done in other English cities.

Whether the President will advise such measure is not known. Some general changes in the form of municipal government are being worked up by Mr. Reynolds, and German and French municipal administrations are said to have been somewhat the basis of study for reforms along this line.

Bradley Case Held Out From Grand Jury Today; To Be Indicted Later

District Attorney Baker did not call the case of Mrs. Anna M. Bradley, charged with the murder of former Senator Bryan, before the grand jury today. In his office it was stated that in view of the fact that the case was not at all dissimilar to scores of others, there was no urgency about an indictment against her. That Mrs. Bradley will be indicted within the next week or two is assured, but the exact date cannot be fixed at this time.

All the evidence the police were able to get has been placed in the hands of the Government's representatives who will prosecute Mrs. Bradley. The letters have been carefully gone over, and their worth as evidence determined. In all there are about twenty or twenty-five letters which may play an important part in the trial.

Counsel for the woman spent all of yesterday mapping out Mrs. Bradley's

defense. They have not reached any definite decision as to the ground on which they will defend her before the jury. Most of the time was spent in getting details and the names of witnesses to make statements regarding the defense of the accused. Mrs. Adams, who acknowledged the cause of the slaying of the statesman, and one of the firm may go to Utah to establish the truth of rumors which have reached here, as well as to procure witnesses who are almost as familiar with Mrs. Bradley's history as she is.

Mrs. Bradley will remain at this afternoon by Attorneys Hoover and Wells, who took magazines and fruit to her. They will remain at the jail in conference with her for two hours or more, getting facts upon which to formulate their lines of defense. Many letters of sympathy and condolence have been received by Mrs. Bradley from men and women alike.

Temperature Falls To Fifteen Below

FARGO, N. D., Dec. 17.—The temperature took a sudden fall last night, and was fifteen below zero today. The weather is bright and clear and no wind to drift the snow. All trains are running.

Coal Production Short Says Northern Pacific

Chairman Knapp, of the Interstate Commerce Commission, this morning received, in answer to his telegram of Friday concerning the shortage of cars, a message from Howard Elliott, president of the Northern Pacific Railway Company, in which he said: "There is a scarcity of fuel in some parts of the country served by our line, but we do not know of any shortage of other necessities of life. Our company has done and will continue to do all that it can to prevent suffering. The company realized in June and July last that the fuel supply was likely to be inadequate, and that the great increase in general business would probably produce a congestion in the autumn. We, therefore, urged all dealers at that time to look ahead and provide a stock of coal early and to try to find new sources of supply. I think the reason given in your mes-



The Palais Royal

A. LISNER

He'll Be Here Tonight

Bring the children to see the grand electric display and Santa Claus in his airship descending upon the roof of a house down the chimney of which he is to go.

Bring Coupons With You

The coupons are worth so much in cash; don't fail to bring them. The store will be open until 10 o'clock tonight.

Coupons Good For Tonight

And Tomorrow Morning From 8 A. M. to 1 P. M.

Coupon	Coupon	Coupon	Coupon
This Palais Royal Second-floor "Dolltown" Coupon and one thirty-nine (\$1.39) entitles bearer to one \$1.39 Hand-werk Doll. This coupon good only during the hours specified.	This Palais Royal Coupon and two thirty-nine (\$1.39) entitles bearer to one \$3.50 Doll with long curling hair. This coupon good only during the hours specified.	This Palais Royal Coupon and three fifty-nine (\$3.59) entitles bearer to one \$4.48 life-size baby doll. This coupon good only during the hours specified.	This Palais Royal Coupon and one dollar (\$1.00) entitles bearer to one \$1.25 doll or with 75c to one \$1 doll. This coupon good only during the hours specified.

Coupon

This Palais Royal Third Floor Coupon and three ninety-eight (\$3.98) entitles bearer to choice of five-dollar (\$5) Fur sets. Only during specified hours.

The variety comprises Sets of Throw Ties, Prince Chap Collars and Large Flat Muffs of Brook Mink, Squirrel and Coney furs. Please learn—make comparisons—that these are furriers' furs and that \$5 is less than the prevailing price.

10 Per Cent Discount on all Furs at \$10 to \$100. Note that the price of each piece is plainly marked and that that price is fully 10 per cent less than the Furrier's quotations. You really save 20 per cent here tonight.



On Third Floor

\$5.00 for Lace Net and Silk Waists; cream, light blue, pink, and black; were from \$5 to \$8; all sizes in the lot.
\$30 for \$50 Velvet and Broadcloth Suits, with fancy Eton, Pony, and light-fitting jackets. All sizes.
\$15.79 for \$25 Broadcloth and Cheviot Suits, all sizes, in browns, grays, blues, greens, and mixtures.
\$19.75 for \$30 Suits, of Cheviot, Broadcloth, and Fancy Mixtures, green, brown, gray, red, navy, and black; all sizes and styles.
\$13.79 for \$17 and \$19 Black Tourist Coats, of Broadcloth, with velvet collar and cuffs, braid trimmed.
\$1.79 for Children's \$2.50 to \$2.98 Cloth Dresses, sizes 4 to 14 years. Only 44c for lace and embroidery trimmed School Aprons.

Silk Umbrellas, \$1.99 and \$3.48

The greatest joy and profit associated with the early selection of Christmas presents is in the finding of these "Bargain Spots." These are the umbrellas fitted with those sample handles, worth up to \$7.50.

Rainproof Tourist Coats, \$6.98 and \$9.98

Ladies' sizes, \$9.98; sizes for girls of 6 to 14, \$6.98. Superior garments, worth considerably more than the prices asked. With Umbrellas, on first floor, at 11th street door.

89c for \$1 to \$1.50 Leather Goods

Ladies' Shopping Bags, Opera Bags, Pocketbooks, Writing Tablets, Music Rolls, Manicure Sets, &c. Men's Smoking Sets, Safety Razors, Collar and Cuff Boxes, &c. Values are \$1 to \$1.50—at 89c for choice. See table full, first floor, near elevator.



Coupon

This Palais Royal Coupon and three ninety-eight (\$3.98) entitles bearer to Lady's \$5 enamel watch and chatelaine pin in velvet case. Good only tonight and tomorrow morning, December 17-18.

Coupon

This Palais Royal Coupon and one ninety-eight (\$1.98) entitles bearer to one \$3 Silver Chatelaine Watch. If presented tonight or tomorrow morning, December 17-18.

Coupon

This Palais Royal Coupon and two twenty-five (\$2.50) entitles bearer to one \$3.50 Gun Metal Chatelaine Watch. Present this coupon tonight or tomorrow morning, December 17-18.

69c for \$3 Guaranteed Fountain Pens

For Tonight and Tomorrow Morning

Coupon	Coupon
This Stationery Department Coupon entitles bearer to choice of fountain pen price reductions for tonight and tomorrow morning, December 17-18. 50c Boxes at 39c. 75c Boxes at 50c. \$1.25 Boxes at 98c. \$2.00 Boxes at \$1.48.	This Coupon entitles bearer to pretty Boxes of Children's Christmas Stationery. 12c Boxes for8c 18c Boxes for12c

Half Leather Sets, 5 Vol., \$1.29

And Half Publishers' Prices for Other Sets

30 vols. Whitehall Shakespeare, \$18.99	2 vols. Short History of Our Times, \$3.99
10 vols. Thackeray, \$1.98	12 vols. Shakespeare, \$1.48
10 vols. Dickens, \$2.98	20 vols. Shakespeare, \$1.48
8 vols. Theo. Roosevelt, \$3.50	10 vols. Irving, \$3.99
15 vols. Dickens, Donohue Edition, \$3.98	8 vols. Hugo, \$3.25
8 vols. Dumas, \$3.98	6 vols. Cheaper, \$3.45
2 vols. Rise of the Dutch Republic, \$1.98	15 vols. Dickens, \$10.25
6 vols. Shakespeare, \$8.99	7 vols. Eliot, \$1.48
2 vols. Valley of Decision, \$2.98	10 vols. Dumas, \$6.99
12 vols. Balzac (1 vol. damaged), \$5.00	16 vols. Ruskin, \$11.94
12 vols. Sparks' Biography (Harper Bros.), \$1.98	12 vols. Waverley, \$8.27
14 vols. Shakespeare, \$2.98	7 vols. Hawthorne, \$4.93

Basement Floor

25c 50c 75c

Worth up to \$2.50

Great Tables filled with all kinds of Brice-a-Brac. Dotted among the regular stock are the importer's sample pieces bought at a low price, worth up to \$2.50 apiece.

FREE—Silk Garters in glass-top box. An ideal Christmas Present. Four pairs of Lace Effect Black Stockings with these Silk Garters. Only \$1 for the stockings—the Garters free.

THE PALAIS ROYAL
G Street A. Lisner, 11th Street